

Military Toronto –World War II – Communications and Morale - Airgraphs

Following are examples of both airgraphs and air letter sheets (to and from Toronto) designed to more rapidly facilitate communications between Home and War Fronts.

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The address should be printed in large CAPITAL letters wholly within the panel alongside.

The address should be the same as for an ordinary letter.

682759

Print address in large CAPITAL letters in the panel above. Nothing else should be written above this line.

Please follow instructions on other side. The message should be written very plainly.

Sender's Name and Address: ARNOLD S. WALKER, 60 MARMOT ST. TORONTO, CAN.

Date: NOVEMBER 5th, 1942.

DEAR MR. CLIFFORD :-

ON JULY 29TH I SENT YOU A FURTHER PARCEL OF STAMPS AND ACKNOWLEDGED YOURS OF JUNE 3RD AND THE VERY NICE LOT YOU SENT ME. TO-DATE I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU, ALTHOUGH I KNOW IT IS NOT YET TIME TO REALLY WORRY ABOUT IT. THOUGHT I WOULD LET YOU KNOW YOURS OF JUNE ARRIVED SAFELY.

MAINLY, I SENT A FURTHER 100 OF THE GREEN SPECIAL DELIVERY AND A NICE PARCEL OF BLOCKS OF FOUR. HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING FURTHER BLOCKS AND HAVE QUITE A NUMBER OF THE LOWER VALUES AND AIR MAIL INCLUDING ONE BLOCK OF THE THIRTEEN CENT, ALL OF THE NEW ISSUE.

TRUSTING TO HEAR FROM YOU AT AN EARLY DATE, I AM,

YOURS SINCERELY,

A.S. Walker

A.S. WALKER.

This space should not be used.

Dec 1939 – 15,000 Canadian soldiers moved to Great Britain, Dec 1940 43,000 more and by the end of 1941 a total of 127,000 members of the CASF were there. Soldiers, family and friends were frustrated by the slowness and uncertain of the mails. The answer came in the form of airgraphs (1941) and airletter sheets (1942).

The airgraph was invented in the 1930's by the Eastman Kodak Company. Canada introduced the Airgraph Service for its troops in 1941. It ensured that thousands of tons of shipping space could be reserved for war materials. Thirty-seven mail bags of ordinary mail (approximately 150,000

one page letters) could be reduced to one mail bag of airgraphs. In other terms, over two tons of mail could be reduced to forty-five pounds. Mail would be reviewed by the military censors, then photographed. Once at their destination they would be printed as shown and delivered.

